

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

October 31, 2002

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PHOTOVOLTAIC WORKSHOP FOR BUILDING PROFESSIONALS COMES TO IOWA

DES MOINES — National energy experts will share the latest innovations in photovoltaic system design and installation at a workshop Nov. 6-7 in Ames. Sponsored by the Iowa DNR and the U.S. Dept. of Energy, the workshop will be an in-depth “how-to” session for engineers, architects, utility staff, and other energy professionals.

“Solar power offers great opportunities for Iowa,” said Sharon Tahtinen with the DNR. “We look forward to increasing the familiarity and practical understanding of PV systems among professionals, and hopefully laying the groundwork for more PV installations in Iowa.”

Instructors for the two-day workshop include Bob Parkins, Western Area Power Administration; Guy Nelson, Utility Energy Forum; and Morey Wolfson and Andy Walker, National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The instructors bring more than 75 years in combined experience on PV projects. Continuing education units will be available.

For complete registration information, contact Dave Evans at (515) 281-6150, email dave.evans@dnr.state.ia.us, or Guy Nelson at (541) 994-4670, email gnelson181@aol.com. Register online at www.lifelearner.iastate.edu/conference/online.htm.

DNR EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR HYDROGEN SULFIDE, AMMONIA AIR STANDARDS

DES MOINES — Due to heavy interest, the DNR will allow two more months for the public to comment on draft rules to establish ammonia and hydrogen sulfide air standards.

The public comment period now extends until January 6, 2003. It was previously scheduled to end early November.

“We have made the comment period as open and available as possible,” said Bryan Bunton, an air specialist with the DNR. “We are pleased with the extent of participation and the quality of input and due to widespread citizen interest in the matter, we are allowing additional time for people to provide input.”

Citizens can comment on the rules in writing by mail, fax or electronic mail or by attending a meeting November 6 at the Davenport Public Library beginning at 7:00 p.m. Nine meetings have been held statewide since September to obtain citizen input.

Written comments can be sent to Bryan Bunton, DNR Air Quality Bureau, 7900 Hickman Road, Suite 1, Urbandale, IA 50322, or by e-mail to bryan.bunton@dnr.state.ia.us. Comments may be faxed to (515) 242-5094. All comments must be received no later than Jan. 6, 2003. The draft rules can be viewed at www.iowacleanair.com.

FINAL PUBLIC MEETING FOR HYDROGEN SULFIDE, AMMONIA AIR STANDARDS TO BE HELD IN DAVENPORT

DES MOINES — A public comment meeting for draft state rules to establish hydrogen sulfide and ammonia air standards and monitoring techniques is scheduled for November 6 at the Davenport Public Library at 321 Main Street from 7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m.

This is the last public meeting of a series of nine held across the state since September.

The draft rules are not limited to confined animal feeding operations and could affect other facilities emitting these compounds. The proposal also establishes an ambient air sampling manual containing monitor siting requirements, data handling procedures, approved monitoring methods and equipment and quality assurance requirements for determining compliance.

The draft rules can be viewed at www.iowacleanair.com.

Either oral or written comments are accepted during the public hearings. Written comments can be sent to Bryan Bunton, DNR Air Quality Bureau, 7900 Hickman Road, Suite 1, Urbandale, IA 50322 or by e-mail to bryan.bunton@dnr.state.ia.us.

Comments may be faxed to (515) 242-5094. All comments must be received no later than Jan. 6, 2003.

DNR TO DISCUSS BACTERIA LEVELS AT ROCK CREEK LAKE

DES MOINES — A public meeting to discuss high bacteria levels at Rock Creek Lake will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14, in Grinnell at Grinnell College. The meeting will be held in the Pioneer Room of the Old Glove Factory.

This is the second public meeting held for Rock Creek Lake this year. In July, state officials representing the DNR, University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory and the Iowa Department of Public Health held a similar meeting in Newton. State personnel will present new information based on additional monitoring that has been completed on Rock Creek Lake and its tributaries. Local residents and officials will be able provide comment on the new information. The goal of these ongoing meetings is to determine possible bacterial sources and to develop a plan to address the high levels.

Everyone who is interested is encouraged to attend the meeting.

A swimming advisory was in effect at Rock Creek Lake three weeks this summer, two weeks at the end of June and the beginning of July and one week in early September.

To access weekly bacteria test results, visit the Parks, Recreation and Preserves Web site at www.state.ia.us/dnr/beach2002.htm.

For more information, contact Janice Boekhoff at (319) 335-1574 or Stefanie Forret at (515) 281-3150.